

February 25, 1976

SENATOR BURROWS: That is correct, and I will apologize to the committee as far as the original form of the bill. We should have had the redraft ready, but the hurrying of the session, I think that they were well, as far as the original bill was concerned correct, but I think that the redraft will correct enough of these that some of the complaints or most of the complaints will be solved. Not everyone will want it, I am sure, but I think that it is palatable at this point.

SPEAKER: Senator Burrows, I do want to alert you that if the bill has been killed by committee, that if you attempt to raise it it will take 30 votes of this body to raise that bill.

SENATOR BURROWS: Is it reported killed? So it will take 30 votes? Thank you.

SPEAKER: The Chair would like to take the opportunity now at this time....I'm sorry, I was going to introduce Senator Mills son and daughter, but I do not see them now. They will be back in a few moments and we will introduce them at that time. The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have a couple of questions of Senator Burrows please. Senator Burrows, can you give me just some basic reasons why you felt that this legislation was necessary this particular session, so I will have a better understanding what you are attempting to accomplish?

SENATOR BURROWS: Well, I had one personal complaint of an employee that had October pay coming, two weeks of it, and this was just 30 days ago he will still unable to get the money. The employer in that one I know was able, they just were not paying. It had gone along about three months back at that point, and they were not getting their money yet. The Labor Commissioner, it was one that was reported there and he had no real tools to collect. Then after talking to the Labor Commissioner, I felt that with the volume of complaints that were not being satisfied it was a situation that we really can not tolerate in the state.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Burrows, I know that many times legislation that we introduce is due to a personal circumstance or one that we know of. Is this a major problem in the State of Nebraska, or are we attempting to change laws for just a few individual cases?

SENATOR BURROWS: Whether you would call over this period of time which I quoted, over a thousand cases that the Labor Commissioner was dealing with in 72 through 12-31-75, and 410 employees that earned their wages, major or not, I will not define, these are reported cases. I think that as far as the word "major" it is rather difficult to use that word. To me, it is major, when these isolated even though they are over 400 didn't get paid in that time, it is major to me because that is their pay. I think that that number is not just an isolated incidence, that would go over on that side whether it is major or not, I couldn't answer.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you. Senator Burrows, with reference to these individual cases, can not the labor representatives